

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Budget Hearing: Environmental Protection Agency
June 15, 2017

Questions for the Record – Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Questions from Mr. Calvert

Rewriting Several Rules per Executive Orders: WOTUS, Clean Power Plan, and Methane

I was pleased to see two early actions from the President to issue:

- Executive Order 13778 on *Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the “Waters of the United States” rule*, and
- Executive Order 13783 on *Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth*.

I have a number of concerns with the WOTUS rule’s flawed history -- it was originally proposed before the scientific studies were complete, the Small Business Association believed EPA should have conducted a Small Business Advocacy Review Panel prior to releasing the rule, and in December 2016 the GAO determined that EPA had violated the law by expending funds on a social media campaign to promote rule.

In my opinion, the only clarity that the WOTUS rule offered was that more Federal permits would be required under an Administration that was not approving permit applications. It was a clear example of Federal overreach.

The FY17 Omnibus included language asking EPA (and the Department of the Interior) to keep the Committee apprised of actions to comply with the Executive Order to promote energy independence and economic growth. For EPA, there were a number of specific directives within the Executive Order related to the Clean Power Plan, the methane rule, and other regulations.

Calvert Q1: Please provide an update on what steps the Agency is taking to comply with these Executive orders.

Calvert Q2: Where is the agency in the process with respect to each of those rules?

Superfund and Brownfields: Budget Request vs. Needs - OLEM

The 2018 budget proposes a 31% reduction for the Superfund program, a \$327 million decrease from the FY17 enacted level. This includes a \$203 million decrease for direct Superfund cleanup activities, which would prevent new cleanups from starting and slow ongoing cleanups.

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